

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 4-7, 9, 17-20, 22, and 24 are currently pending. Claims 1-3, 14-16, 23, 25, and 26 have been canceled without prejudice by the present amendment.

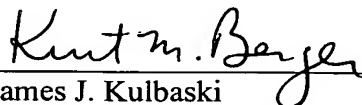
In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1 and 14 were objected to as containing various informalities; Claims 1-3, 14-16, 23, 25, and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 3,956,583 to Pugsley in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,091,512 to Sasanuma et al. and U.S. Patent No. 5,387,985 to Loce et al.; and Claims 4-7, 9, 17-20, 22, and 24 were allowed.

Applicants respectfully submit that the objections to Claims 1 and 14 and the rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103 are rendered moot by the present cancellation of Claims 1-3, 14-16, 23, 25, and 26.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above discussion, the outstanding grounds for rejection are believed to have been overcome. The application as amended herewith is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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